Syphilis Rate Reported High In Portsmouth.

Norfolk, Va. Journal & Guide

PORTSMOUTH — Twenty-five percent of the colored men called up for preinduction examinations were rejected due to syphilis, states Dr. Harry Pariser, medical consultant of the City Health Department, basing his report on a selective service survey. Slightly less than two percent of the white selectees were rejected because of syphilis, he declared. 8-4-45

"No person with a venereal disease need go without medical attention in Portsmouth, due to the exceptionally modern treatment available to all persons without charge," the consultant declared.

PUBLIC INFORMED

T. Ashby Beckham, head of the venereal disease clinic, stated that the Health Department is endeavoring to keep the public informed of the fact that all venereal diseases are curable.

"Persons who feel they have been exposed should apply either to their own doctor, or the clinic for treatment, and not maintain the Victorian attitude that they are social outcast or lepers" said Mr Beckham, adding that "Physicians look upon venereal diseases the same as any other disease, the person is sick, and needs treatment."

QUICK CURES

Portsmouth City Health Department sends 150 to 200 persons a month to Hampton Roads Medical Center, 42th and Powhatan street, Norfolk, a rapid treatment center for all venereal infections. An highly infectious case in Virginia may go there for treatment free of charge. Gonorrhea cure can be effected in one day, but it takes 8 days to cure syphilis, Mr. Beckham said.

Early cases are considered highly infectious. Cases that have continued over a period of four or more years are not infectious, and are not eligible for rapid treatment.

OLD CASES

The usual treatment administered by the Health Department for long cases takes 14 months. In some instances treatment must be continued much longer.

Treatment for V. D., as it is commonly called, is almost 100 percent curable, and therefore neglect because of any fear of exposure is unsound, the health official stated.

Richmond Syphilis Rate Is Alarming

The Afro American Baltimore, Maryland 9-15-45

RICHMOND—Nearly one-third of Richmond colored men inducted into the armed forces and more than one-fifth of others from Virginia were positive syphilis cases, figures released by the city health department revealed this week..

The figures, based on records of the first two million service men inducted under the Selective Service Act and examined by Selective Service boards, show the national average for white persons as being 1.76, 24.52 for colored and an overall figure of 4.7.

Richmond Rate Highest

The State and local picture, based on the same figures and released through the Richmond Venereal Disease Clinic, headed by Dr. W. H. Waters, show an average rate of 2.44 for whites and 22.67 for colored in the State, and 2.34, white, and 30.10, colored, for Richmond. 9-15-45

Urging all persons who discover sores about their bodies, especially the genital organs, to visit the clinic for free examinations, officials pointed out that $97,000 has been allocated from Federal, State and city funds to maintain the Richmond Municipal Hospital.

"Syphilis or bad blood can be treated in the short space of 10 days with the wonder drug penicillin," an official pointed out, adding that "Hospitalization is offered all who have the disease and are desirous of getting rid of it quickly."

As another effective step in the fight against the growing scourge of syphilis in the city and State, health authorities urge that all persons submit to a blood test at least once each year, and guard especially against boils or sores on any part of the body.